



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ECHO BATTERY, 1ST BATTALION, 40TH FIELD ARTILLERY
6050 NE ROTHWELL STREET
FORT SILL OK 73503-6204

ATSF-KI-E

Dear Eagle Family Member:

I am Captain Dudley, your Soldier's Battery Commander for Basic Combat Training (BCT) Class 89-14 in the United States Army 434th Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. As you already know, your Soldier has safely arrived, in-processed, and has already begun their 10 week journey towards becoming a Soldier. As a member of Echo Battery, your Soldier is in the good hands of our Battery Cadre. These hard working Noncommissioned Officers make up the most dedicated and professional team in the United States Army. We serve as coaches, teachers, mentors, and leaders whose mission is more than just making sure your Soldier graduates from BCT. Our goal is to provide our Army with well trained, motivated and disciplined Soldiers who respond to leadership, are focused on team work, and who believe in the Warrior Ethos and the Army Values. We strive to create Soldiers that demonstrate a winning attitude and are mentally, physically and emotionally prepared for the rigors of combat. We will accomplish this mission by providing your Soldier with the most realistic and relevant training available. As you will hear first hand from your Soldier, this training will be some of the most strenuous, and demanding training they have ever been through. BCT is not easy, nor should it be; however, every task your Soldier performs will help develop the discipline, self-confidence, and knowledge necessary for them to be a successful Soldier in today's Army. We consider our Soldiers to be our nation's most precious resource and a key asset of the Army's future. Please know that, like you, we are genuinely concerned about your Soldier's overall health and well-being and we have a number of resources available to alleviate and mitigate any financial, medical or personal issues.

This is not only your Soldier's first Army experience; it may be yours as well. With that being said, we would like to welcome you to the Army family. Like your family's values, our seven inherent Army Values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage are rooted deep in tradition and sewn into the very soul of every American Soldier. Your Soldier is currently learning about these values while living by the American Soldier's Creed. At times, this experience will seem to be very difficult for your Soldier. For many of our younger Soldiers, this is their first time away from everything they know, to include home, family, and friends. Naturally, your Soldier misses you as much as you miss them, so I encourage you to write at every possible opportunity. Simply put, **Soldiers love getting mail**. Your sentiments of pride and encouragement provide a great deal of strength in the morale and motivation of your Soldier. Sending packages of writing materials or hygiene items is allowed but please refrain from sending food, candy, knives, or inappropriate items. Be assured that your Soldier will be given ample time to write and read your mail. Please understand that sending and receiving mail is a federally protected right, but access to e-mail and a telephone/cell phone are not. As privileges, access to the phone and e-mail are granted based on good conduct and performance. The earliest time your Soldier will have access to their phones will be Sunday, October 25th but again this is based on their conduct and could be cancelled.

I will send you a **Graduation letter** in the next few weeks outlining details about **Family Day (December 4th, 2014) and Graduation (December 5th, 2014)**. We understand that by attending graduation events you are making great sacrifices with your time and money that require adequate planning. The Graduation letter will outline final details of location and times but I invite you to follow our Facebook page for timely updates on your Soldiers. **Remember**, Graduation and Family day activities are fixed events. It is up to your Soldier to meet all graduation requirements in order to move on to their next assignment. There are times when a Soldier does not meet these requirements for

graduation and has to transfer to another battery. Under these circumstances, it is the Soldier's responsibility to inform you they are not graduating. In addition your Soldier's Family Day and Graduation pass can be revoked due to misconduct at my discretion. For these reasons, I highly recommend anyone coming to graduation to **purchase refundable tickets**.

I am happy to welcome you and your Soldier to the Echo Eagles and to the United States Army. Again, Graduation details will be mailed to you in a few weeks and I encourage you to follow us on Facebook for updates and photos.

Contacts

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Echo-Battery-1st-Bn-40th-Field-Artillery-Eagles/312889091574> .

Website: <http://sill-www.army.mil/434/1-40/1-40e.html>.

Email: 1SG Jacobs at william.h.jacobs.mil@mail.mil.

Mail:

--addressee's name here--

E Battery, 1-40th FA __ Plt

6050 NE Rothwell St.,

Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503.

Sincerely,

JACOB D. DUDLEY
CPT, FA
Commanding